

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 25, 2006 has been received and carefully reviewed. The preceding amendments and the following remarks form a full and complete response thereto. Claim 14 is amended as to matters of form. No new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-14 are pending in the application and submitted for consideration.

Claims 1-13 are allowed.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for allegedly failing to recite statutory subject matter.

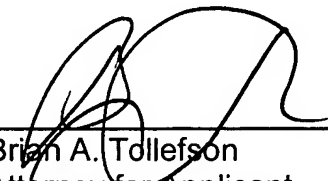
Claim 14 has been amended to recite a "computer-readable medium" for storing a computer program comprising operations. A claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program is a computer element which defines structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and the rest of the computer which permit the computer program's functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory. MPEP § 2106(II)(B)(1)(a). Thus, Applicants submit that claim 14 meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn and claim 14 be allowed.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and request a notice be timely issued indicating the same. If, however, the Examiner believes that issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any such issues.

If this paper is deemed not to have been timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time and authorize the Office to charge the required payment to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 6449.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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